

Alcorn State University
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

2022-01

RFx3150003785

Alcorn State University anticipates purchasing the services/products listed below as a sole source purchase. Anyone objecting to this purchase shall follow the procedures outlined below.

1. Commodity or commodities to be purchased (make, model, description):

Planning & Self Study, Aqua, and Via (Year1)

Digital Measures and Smart Catalog (Year 2)

Evaluation KIT (Year 3)

2. Explanation of the need to be fulfilled by this item(s), how is it unique from all other options, and why it is the only one that can meet the specific needs of the department:

Watermark is the sole source of the products in question, and the products are solely distributed through Watermark and can only be purchased directly from Watermark. Regarding the specifics of the solution's uniqueness:

Aqua and *Via* have a seamless data integration with *Planning & Self Study* which allow artifacts and evidence to be transferred automatically from *Aqua* and *Via* to *Planning & Self Study* for assessment and accreditation reporting.

EvaluationKIT has a unique plug-in integration with both Canvas and Blackboard, allowing course, student, and instructor data to seamlessly be transferred from LMS to *EvaluationKIT*; it also contains a user integration that enables a proprietary survey notification to be deployed to students which drives response rates. *EvaluationKIT* also has a unique integration with *Digital Measures* which allow faculty and administrators to send course evaluation results from *EvaluationKIT* into *Digital Measures* seamlessly. *Digital Measures* has a proprietary "CV Import" feature that empowers faculty to import their CV into the system to enable seamless data transfer.

Smart Catalog and *Smart Curriculum* are natively integrated allowing course and curriculum information to be both reviewed, accepted, updated, and published, with only "one update" from the user side.

3. Name of company/individual selling the item and why that source is the only possible source that can provide the required item(s):

Watermark is the sole holder of copyright and other intellectual property rights in the following solutions: Planning & Self Study, Aqua, Via, Digital Measures, Smart Catalog, and EvaluationKIT.

4. Estimated cost of item(s) and an explanation why the amount to be expended is considered reasonable:

Total Cost for Year 1 is \$106,200 (\$84,600 in license fee + \$21,600 implementation fee)

5. Explanation of the efforts taken by the department to determine this is the only source and the efforts used to obtain the best possible price:

No comparative or competitive quotations can be obtained. Watermark is the sole source of the products, the products are distributed only through Watermark, and can only be purchased directly from Watermark.

Advertisement Schedule	Date
1 st scheduled	August 16, 2021
2 nd scheduled	August 23, 2021

Any person or entity that objects and proposes that the services/products listed is not sole source and can be provided by another person or entity shall submit a written notice to:

Mertha George

Purchasing Agent

mgeorge@alcorn.edu

Subject Line must read "Sole Source Objection"

The notice shall contain a detailed explanation of why the services/products is not a sole source procurement. Appropriate documentation shall also be submitted if applicable.

If after a review of the submitted notice and documents, ASU determines that the services/products in the proposed sole source request can be provided by another person or entity, then ASU will withdraw the sole source request publication from the procurement portal website and submit the procurement of the commodity to an advertised competitive bid or selection process.

If ASU determines after review that there is only one (1) source for the required commodity, then ASU will appeal to the Public Procurement Review Board. ASU will have the burden of proving that the services/products are only provided by one (1) source.

August 10, 2021

The Clarion Ledger
P.O. Box 40
Jackson, MS 39205-0040

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please run the enclosed notices on August 16, 2021 and August 23, 2021.

After the last run, please send one (1) copy of the proof of advertisement to us.

Very truly yours,

Mertha George
Mertha George
Purchasing Agent

August 10, 2021

ADVERTISEMENT

Alcorn State University anticipates purchasing the services/products from Watermark. Objections in response to Sole Source #2019-02 are due on Thursday, September 02, 2021 by 2:00 pm in the Office of Purchasing, 1000 ASU Drive #509, Lorman, MS 39096:

**Planning & Self Study, Aqua, and Via
Digital Measures and Smart Catalog
EvaluationKIT
RFx 3150003785**

Should a vendor choose to submit their response electronically, please follow the instructions below using the following website:
https://www.ms.gov/dfa/contract_bid_search/Home/Sell. On that site, you will find helpful links to procurement opportunities, as well as a link to supplier registration. If not already registered in that system, potential bidders will first need to click on 'Supplier Registration' and follow the steps outlined (a one-time process). Once registered, they can return to the original website and click on 'Procurement Opportunities' where they can either search by keyword for the bid they desire to respond to or leave the search box blank and click 'Search' for a listing of all current bids and proposals for various State of Mississippi offices.

Specifications may be obtained from the Office of the Purchasing Agent, Mertha V. George (601) 877-6154 or email at mgeorge@alcorn.edu. Alcorn State University reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals/qualifications and to waive informalities.